

AbstractFREE FLOWING GLASS BATCH

5           A process for preparing and storing moist glass-making batch is disclosed, comprising incorporating a surfactant in moist batch so that when the batch is either:

a) stored at a temperature below 35°C, it remains free flowing without setting, or

10       b) pre-heated at, or above, 100°C before supply to a glass melting furnace, it remains free flowing without setting.

          The moist batch includes from 2 % to 10 % by weight free water and from 0.0001 % to 5 % by weight surfactant, which is preferably a soluble soap (for example a carboxylate having from 4 to 22 carbon atoms in its chain) that  
15       is incorporated into the batch as it is mixed. The moist batch can be stored for at least 24 hours, and it can be pre-heated to at least 150°C, and remain free flowing without setting.

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Figure 1